

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) In combination, a fitment and a flexible container comprising:
 - a lower fitment member having a top surface with a fluid conducting opening;
 - a wall of said flexible container disposed onto said top surface of said lower fitment member; and
 - an upper fitment member having an upper fitment top surface, an upper fitment bottom surface and an upper fitment conduit aligned with said fluid conducting opening and disposed onto said top surface of said lower fitment member forming a fitment, said fitment being attached to said wall of said flexible container by mechanical compression.
2. (Original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein said upper fitment member further includes a septum in axial alignment with said upper fitment conduit.
3. (Original) The combination of Claim 2 wherein said septum is made of a resilient material.
4. (Original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein top surface of said lower fitment member and said bottom surface of said upper fitment member have a layer of resilient material disposed thereon.

5. (Original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein said fitment further comprising at least a fitment gasket positioned between said top surface of said lower fitment member and said bottom surface of said upper fitment member.

6. (Original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein said upper fitment member includes an elongated tube extending from said upper fitment top surface and axially aligned with said upper fitment conduit.

7. (Original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein said lower fitment member includes one or more posts extending from said top surface and wherein said upper fitment member includes at least an equal number of post receiving openings.

8. (Original) The combination of Claim 7 wherein said upper fitment member is fused to said one or more posts of said lower fitment member.

9. (Original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein said lower fitment member and said upper fitment member are made of a material having low gas permeability.

10. (Original) The combination of Claim 9 wherein said material is an acrylonitrile methyl acrylate copolymer.

Claims 11-21 (Canceled).

22. (Original) A method of providing an improved flexible bag and fitment combination, said method comprising:

obtaining a fitment having a lower fitment member with a top surface and a fluid conducting opening in said top surface, an upper fitment member having an upper fitment bottom surface with an upper fitment fluid opening;

positioning said top surface of said lower fitment member on one side of a wall of said flexible container;

positioning said upper fitment bottom surface of said upper fitment member on the opposite side of said wall and opposed to said lower fitment member wherein said upper fitment fluid opening is axially aligned with said fluid conducting opening of said lower fitment member;

compressing said lower fitment member and said upper fitment member together; and securing said lower fitment member and said upper fitment member together forming a fluid tight seal with said flexible container.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22 further comprising coating at least one of said top surface and said upper fitment bottom surface with a resilient material.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 22 further comprising inserting at least one gasket between said top surface and said upper fitment bottom surface.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 22 wherein said obtaining step includes obtaining a fitment having a lower fitment member with one or more posts extending from said top surface and an upper fitment member with at least an equal number of post receiving openings configured to mate with said one or more posts.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 25 further comprising fusing said one or more posts to said upper fitment member.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 22 further comprising adding a septum to said upper fitment member wherein said septum is in axial alignment with said upper fitment fluid opening.

28. (Original) A method of increasing the shelf life of a fluid material packaged in a flexible bag, said method comprising:

obtaining a fitment made of a material with a low gas permeability, said fitment having a lower fitment member with a top surface and a fluid conducting opening in said top surface, an upper fitment member having an upper fitment bottom surface with an upper fitment fluid opening, said fluid conducting opening and said upper fitment fluid opening defining a fluid passageway;

positioning said top surface of said lower fitment member on one side of a flexible film, said flexible film being made of a multi-layered material having at least a barrier layer;

positioning said upper fitment bottom surface of said upper fitment member on the opposite side of said wall and opposed to said lower fitment member wherein said upper fitment fluid opening is axially aligned with said fluid conducting opening of said lower fitment member;

compressing said lower fitment member and said upper fitment member together;

securing said lower fitment member and said upper fitment member together forming a fluid tight seal with said flexible container; and

sealing peripheral edges of said flexible film forming a first flexible bag with a fitment thereon.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 28 further comprising coating at least one of said top surface and said upper fitment bottom surface with a resilient material.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 28 further comprising inserting at least one gasket between said top surface and said upper fitment bottom surface.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 28 wherein said obtaining step includes obtaining a fitment having a lower fitment member with one or more posts extending from said top surface and an upper fitment member with at least an

equal number of post receiving openings configured to mate with said one or more posts.

32. (Original) The method of Claim 31 further comprising fusing said one or more posts to said upper fitment member.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 28 further comprising adding a septum to said fluid passageway.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 28 further comprising positioning a second flexible film between said top surface and said upper fitment bottom surface.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 34 further comprising inserting a middle gasket between said first flexible film and said second flexible film at a position between said top surface and said upper fitment bottom surface.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 35 further comprising inserting a lower fitment gasket adjacent said top surface and an upper fitment gasket adjacent said upper fitment bottom surface.

37. (Original) A fitment kit for use with a flexible bag comprising:

a lower fitment member having a fluid conducting opening in a top surface of said lower fitment member; and

an upper fitment member having an upper fitment bottom surface and an upper fitment opening, said upper fitment opening forming a fluid conduit with said fluid conducting opening of said lower fitment member, said upper fitment bottom surface and said top surface of said lower fitment member configured to form a mechanical seal between said lower fitment member, a wall of said flexible bag and said upper fitment member.

38. (Original) The kit of Claim 37 further comprising a septum configured to be positioned within said fluid conduit.

39. (New) The combination of claim 1:

wherein the fitment is made of a first material and the flexible container is made of a second material;

wherein the first material and the second material have substantially different melting points to prevent heat sealing of the fitment to the flexible container.

40. (New) The method of claim 22:

wherein the fitment is made of a first material and the flexible container is made of a second material;

wherein the first material and the second material have substantially different melting points to prevent heat sealing of the fitment to the flexible container.

41. (New) The method of claim 28:

wherein the fitment is made of a first material and the flexible bag is made of a second material;

wherein the first material and the second material have substantially different melting points to prevent heat sealing of the fitment to the flexible container.

42. (New) The kit of claim 37:

wherein the upper fitment member and lower fitment member is made of a first material and the flexible bag is made of a second material;

wherein the first material and the second material have substantially different melting points to prevent heat sealing of one of the upper fitment member and lower fitment member to the flexible container.